

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendments and the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 10 are pending. Claims 2, 3, 5, and 7-9 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been presently amended, and Claim 10 has been presently added. No new matter added.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishida et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,207) in view of Fujimori et al (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0075441) further in view of Yi et al (U.S. Patent No. 2003/0104291) further in view of Inoue et al (Japanese Patent No. 2001-091727), Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishida et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,207), Fujimori et al, Yi et al and Inoue et al, in view of Ochiai et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,768,531).

Regarding the rejection on the merits, amended Claim 1 and new Claim 10 define features not found in the applied art. For example, Claim 1 recites:

A liquid crystal display apparatus configured to have a liquid crystal layer interposed between a first substrate and a second substrate, characterized by comprising:

a plurality of pixels which are disposed in a matrix in a display region that displays an image, the pixels including a first pixel with a first gap for interposition of the liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate, and a second pixel with a second gap that is smaller than the first gap, the first pixel including a first color filter layer that has a first film thickness and mainly passes first color light, and the second pixel including a second color filter layer that has a second film thickness, which is greater than the first film thickness, and mainly passes second color light, the first color light having a wavelength that is greater than a wavelength of the second color light;

switching elements disposed near intersections of scan lines and signal lines in communication with the plurality of pixels;

a first through-hole of the first color filter layer connecting a first pixel electrode to one of the switching elements;

a second through-hole of the second color filter layer connecting a first pixel electrode to another one of the switching elements;

a columnar spacer for creating the second gap, the columnar spacer being disposed not at the first pixel but on the second color filter layer at the second pixel; and

a light shield layer disposed in a picture-frame shape along a peripheral edge of the display region,

wherein the columnar spacer and the light shield layer are formed simultaneously using a negative-type photosensitive resin material by undergoing a single exposure process through a photo mask having a predetermined pattern. [Emphasis added.]

Support for these clarifying features is found in Applicant's Figures 2 and 3 and the discussion of those features on pages 9-11 of the specification, where for example switching elements 121 are disposed near intersections of scan lines and signal lines, and connections to each pixel electrode 151 is by way of through-holes 26 which pass through color filters 24.

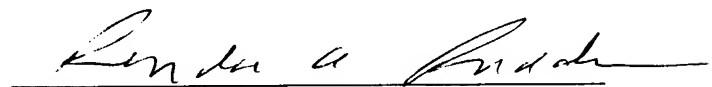
Nishida et al show no switching elements and no through-hole connections. Yi et al show no switching elements and no through-hole connections. Fujimori et al show through-holes 3a passing through an insulating layer 3 above switching elements 9, but not through color filters 5 which are located on the opposite panel from through-holes 3a. Inoue et al show no through-hole connections with respect to connections to switching elements, and further have color filters 6 on the opposite panel from switching elements 3.

Hence, a combination of Nishida et al, Fujimori et al, Yi et al, and Inoue et al would not meet all the presently defined elements of independent Claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 and 10 (and the claims dependent therefrom) patentably define over the art of record.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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